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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and

First meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment

Addis Ababa, 28 June- 2 July 1982

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES SINCE THE SECOND MEETING

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

1456-0127

Summary

1. This document gives a report on the activities of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) with regard to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements at its second meeting held at the headquarters of the ECA from 28 July to 1 August 1980.

2. At the end of its deliberations at that meeting, the Committee identified some priority areas of action and adopted relevant resolutions.

3. These priority areas are as follows:

(a) Development of the regional capability for the implementation of human settlements policies and programmes adopted by the Committee in accordance with its terms of reference;

(b) Integration and harmonization of technical assistance activities in the field of human settlements undertaken in the African region with regional economic and social development policies defined in the Lagos Plan of Action;

(c) Development of construction and building materials industries;

(d) Extension of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to include regional environmental programmes;

(e) Status of refugees.

4. The document covers all the activities undertaken by the secretariat with regard to the implementation of these resolutions and also outlines the problems of implementation.

5. These problems resulted primarily from the lack of adequate resources and their instability due to the inability of the secretariat to get a renewal of extra-budgetary funds for the implementation of the human settlements programmes.

6. The Committee is therefore being invited to consider the appropriate measures for strengthening the mechanisms for the implementation of the regional and subregional human settlements policies and programmes. It should find the ways and means of ensuring the effective mobilization of regional resources, their concentration and co-ordination for the implementation of its regional activities, especially by harmonizing the programmes and activities undertaken in the region in respect of human settlements.

7. A proposal is made for enhancing co-operation among member countries through the establishment of technical working committees. These committees will bring together either at the headquarters of the secretariat or in the host countries, national experts and technicians who are specialists in human settlement matters and are nominated by their respective countries. These committees would examine specific issues and find solutions to problems affecting the development of human settlements. They would suggest measures and draw up regional and subregional programmes of action for assistance to be given to member States in the areas covered by the studies.

The background work in support of the activities of these committees will be done by national experts seconded to the Commission for specific periods of time by their governments at their own expense.

8. With regard to the development of building materials and building techniques, the attention of the Committee should be drawn to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa decided by the United Nations. The main objective of this programme which is under the joint responsibility of the OAU, ECA, and UNIDO, with assistance from the UNDP and in which priority is given to the development of building materials industries, is to assist African countries to develop in an autonomous and endogenous manner through the rapid promotion of the industrial sector by ensuring complementarities pursuant to the Lagos Plan of Action.

I. INTRODUCTION

9. The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements at its second meeting held in Addis Ababa from 28 July to 1 August 1980, adopted resolutions relating, respectively, to:

(i) "Regional human settlements policies and programmes" resolution I(II);

(ii) "Development of the building materials and construction industries" resolution 2(II);

(iii) "Extension of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements", resolution 3(II);

(iv) "Status of refugees", resolution 4(II), and

(v) "Development and application of methodologies and planning techniques studies", resolution 5(II).

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

10. Pursuant to the institutional arrangements governing the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (resolution I(1) of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and resolution 353(XIV) of the ECA Conference of Ministers), the report and resolutions adopted at the second meeting of the Committee were presented to the second meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole held in Freetown from 24 March to 2 April 1981 (see document E/CN.14/301).

11. The Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, after studying the report and the resolutions of the Committee, submitted its comments and recommendations to the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Economic Planning and Development.

12. After examining the conclusions of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole, the Conference of Ministers, adopted resolution 408(XIV) entitled "Human Settlements" (see annex I).

13. In that resolution the Conference of Ministers took note of the report of the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, approved the resolutions adopted by the latter and while it recommended the reconsideration of the resolution 4(II), it adopted the new arrangements regarding the extension of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee.

14. With regard to the implementation of the resolutions of the Regional Committee, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa carried out the following activities:

Resolution I(II)

15. The provisions of that resolution were divided under the following five paragraphs:

A. Institutional arrangements;
B. Technical assistance services,
C. Follow-up on Lagos Plan of Action,
D. Mobilization of resources, and
E. Inter-Agency co-operation.

16. Paragraph A of the resolution covers institutional arrangements and especially recommends that African Governments which have not yet introduced requisite measures for restructuring their institutional machinery for the tasks of formulation, implementation, evaluation and re-orientation of their human settlements policies, strategies and programmes for their effective integration within the national social and economic objectives and programmes, should do so. Furthermore, it was recommended that Governments of member States, if they so need, should avail themselves of the technical assistance and advisory services of the Economic Commission for Africa for the satisfactory completion of the required studies and the implementation of the measures for restructuring their institutional machinery for human settlements policies and programmes.

17. By these two resolutions, the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements reaffirmed the primary importance of the integration of economic and social development policies and programmes at the national and local levels for solving the problems of human settlements in the region and the need for establishing and developing the national machinery for the formulation and implementation of human settlements policies that could provide an effective solution to national problems.

18. In this connexion, it is necessary to recall the report of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee held in Addis Ababa from 28 July to 1 August 1980 (document E/CN.14/HUS/42). This report contains the discussions held during the meeting on the situation at national level with regard to the establishment and strengthening of the appropriate machinery. The Committee took note of the efforts made by a number of governments of member countries towards the establishment or the development and utilization of such a machinery, and urged those who had not yet implemented the requisite measures for the establishment of these institutions to take the appropriate steps in that regard.

19. In implementing that resolution the secretariat concentrated on the efforts which governments should make to establish this machinery. Many member States currently lack the qualified staff in the required numbers to ensure the establishment and operation of such a machinery. Consequently, the secretariat encouraged in the first instance the setting up of national departments to co-ordinate sectoral policies relating to the regional priorities identified by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee, namely:

(i) Machinery for the formulation of human settlements planning policies in the economic and social development process and,

(ii) Machinery relating to the development of national capabilities in respect of construction policy.

20. With regard to human settlements planning policies, the secretariat of the Commission provided technical assistance to member States mainly through the services of regional planning and urban development experts working in the East African and West African Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOC). In addition to the services provided by the experts in the subregional offices, some missions were undertaken by experts from the Commission's Headquarters. Missions were undertaken to Botswana, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta and Zimbabwe.

21. These missions made it possible to collect data for analysing national mechanisms for the formulation and implementation of human settlements policies and programmes, especially the mechanisms for co-ordination as well as those for the evaluation of skilled manpower needs.

22. However, the secretariat has not been able to follow-up the action undertaken in the West African and East African MULPOCs. As discussed later on, the secretariat could not maintain the services of the experts in these subregions due to the lack of extra-budgetary financial resources. The activities undertaken by the experts during their period of service did not only make it possible for the secretariat to meet requests for assistance, strengthen co-operation with the UNCHS (Habitat), participate actively in the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations, but they also facilitated the collection of data for the formulation of programmes and projects of assistance for the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms for co-ordinating human settlements development policies and ensuring their linkage with the economic and social development sectoral policies.

23. It should be mentioned at this juncture that action is being taken to recruit an expert in spatial planning of integrated social and economic development policies. The secretariat thus hopes to be able to pursue the implementation of the programme and, particularly, to examine the problem of methodologies appropriate to regional conditions.

24. As regards the machinery for the formulation and implementation of programmes for the development of construction capacity, a detailed report is contained in paragraph 44. The action of the secretariat in this regard, can be summed up as an effort to assist in setting up, at the national level, a nodal mechanism for the co-ordination of construction policies.

25. It should be recalled here that at its previous session, the committee had, in the operative paragraph of its resolution I(II) entitled "Regional Human Settlements Policies and Programmes", recommended that governments of member States should inform the secretariat of the actions they had undertaken to restructure their institutional machinery to enable the secretariat to assess the global situation prevailing in the region and the necessary efforts that should be made to speed up the establishment of these mechanisms. Since this recommendation has not been fully implemented, the secretariat is not yet in a position to make a general appraisal of the situation. Governments of member States should be urged to make an effort in this direction and a programme of action should be proposed during this meeting.

26. Paragraph B of resolution I(II), on technical assistance services, requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take the appropriate steps to promote and strengthen the institutional facilities within the Commission, in order to extend the required technical assistance and advisory services to the African Governments on request, by consolidating and expanding the Housing,Construction and Physical Planning Section at the headquarters into a full-fledged Division, strengthen concurrently the human settlements services available at the Lusaka and Niamey MULPOCs and extend such services to the Gisenyi, Yaounde and Tangiers MULPOCs.

27. The secretariat of the Commission endeavoured to take the appropriate steps to ensure the implementation of this operative paragraph of the resolution. However, the decision by the General Assembly to maintain a zero-growth budget within the UN system prevented the secretariat from acquiring sufficient additional resources to implement this resolution. Consequently, pending the acquisition of more adequate

resources, the secretariat is examining measures that could give greater responsibility and autonomy to the Section responsible for human settlements programmes within the Commission by transforming that Section into a "Human Settlements Unit".

28. Lastly, in the third part of the operative paragraph B of resolution I(II), the committee requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take appropriate steps to make the information and audio-visual services of Vision-Habitat available to all African countries by utilizing the existing ECA MULPOC facilities in the various subregions.

29. The secretariat has included this request of the Committee among the subjects to be discussed between the Secretariats of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. A report on the conclusions of the working sessions to be held will be submitted to the Committee.

30. Paragraph C of resolution I(II) is entitled "Follow-up on Lagos Plan of Action". In the operative paragraph (a) the Committee requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to ensure the involvement of the Economic Commission for Africa, from the beginning, in all the regional technical assistance activities in respect of human settlements to be carried out by UNCHS in the African region, with a view to ensuring their effective integration and harmonization with the social and economic development programmes of the region keeping in view ECA's mandate in this regard and ensuring adequate monitoring of their consistency with the Lagos Plan of Action and proper decentralization. In the operative paragraph (b), the Committee requests all African States members of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements to hold preparatory meetings with the Human Settlements Section of the Economic Commission for Africa at least two days prior to the meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements in order to ensure concerted approach and actions and proper co-ordination and effective decentralization, bearing in mind the decisions and priorities outlined by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements.

31. The Committee thus reiterates its concern, already expressed during its first meeting, to avoid the dissipation of available resources in the region and the need to mobilize these resources so as to achieve the regional objectives it has set.

32. During the next working sessions, the secretariat of the Commission will again draw the attention of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to this major concern of the Committee. The secretariat of the Commission will endeavour to harmonize its regional work programmes with those of UNCHS (Habitat). It should be recalled that in compliance with the operative paragraph (b) of the resolution, the African member States of the Commission on Human Settlements held consultation meetings with the representative of the secretariat during the fourth meeting of the Commission on Human Settlements held in Manilla, Philippines, from 27 April to 6 May 1981. Following these working sessions, they presented a number of draft resolutions to the plenary sessions of that meeting which led the Commission to adopt resolutions on the following issues:

4/4 "Strengthening of the Human Settlements Unit of the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa";

4/5 "Co-operation at the regional level related to human settlements";

4/6 "Mobilization and Utilization of resources for human settlements development";

4/10 "Utilization of consultants and experts" and

4/12 "Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism".

The text of these resolutions is contained in annex II of this document.

33. African States Members of the Commission on Human Settlements were informed of similar meetings organized during the fifth meeting of the Commission held in Nairobi from 20 April to 7 May 1982. At these meetings, the Commission will submit a progress report to the African participating States on the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions 4/4, 4/5, 4/6 and 4/10. During the current meeting, a report will be submitted to this Committee on the decisions of the African Group and the resolutions taken by the Commission on Human Settlements which are relevant to the African region.

34. Paragraph D entitled "Mobilization of Resources" calls for the mobilization of available resources for the implementation of the regional programme. To this end, the Committee requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to redeploy the resources made available to the region to enable the Economic Commission for Africa to carry out the required activities expeditiously. The United Nations Secretary-General is also requested to lend his full support to the needs of the African region by allocating additional funds to enable the Economic Commission for Africa to carry out human settlements activities as per the mandate of the Committee. Lastly, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa is requested to ensure that the Human Settlements Programme benefits from the "UN Trust Fund for African Development" and, in addition, organize the mobilization of additional resources.

35. During the interval between the last meeting held in 1980 and the current meeting, two experts from Habitat have been posted to the Commission's secretariat to implement the regional programme of HABITAT. This Centre also provided the experts with secretarial services.

36. The Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of the Economic Commission for Africa placed all the available facilities at the disposal of these experts. It also offered them all the necessary technical support by organizing joint working sessions and financed the participation of one of them in a subregional meeting.

37. It should be noted that, during the period under review, the secretariat of the Commission placed extra-budgetary funds at the disposal of the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section. This enabled the Section to undertake some activities contained in its programme of work and priorities, namely, assistance to the governments of member States of MULPOCS in West and East Africa by recruiting two experts for the subregions. Furthermore, aid missions financed from extra-budgetary funds were also organized by the headquarters of the Commission.

38. It should be recalled that the allocation of the extra-budgetary funds and particularly the apportioning of the United Nations Trust Fund for Development is done in accordance with the order of priorities specified by the member States at the time of their contributions. It should be noted, in this connexion, that during the last pledging session held at the end of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development held in Freetown from 6 to 10 April 1981, only three governments included human settlement programmes among the priority areas to be covered by their contributions to the Fund. It would, therefore, be advisable that the members of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements draw the attention of their respective governments to the importance of the human settlements regional programme and the need for an active support for its implementation.

39. In the field of inter agency co-operation, (paragraph 4 of resolution I(II) the secretariat participated in technical meetings organized by Habitat at the latter's invitation. The secretariat also took an active part in the international meeting of experts on the development of the indigenous construction sector as well as in the international preparatory meeting held in Nairobi for the organization of a symposium on low-cost building materials.

40. Furthermore, the secretariat participated in meetings organized by the African Development Bank for the establishment of Shelter-Afrique, an institution for financing housing construction projects. It also prepared and presented a working document to "The final preparatory meeting for Shelter-Afrique held in Arusha, Tanzania from 31 August to 4 September 1981".

41. As part of the implementation of the building materials and construction industries development programme, the secretariat, in co-operation with the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), took action in formulating proposals for studying and introducing standards for certain building materials. It is worth recalling that the building materials and construction industries development programme was formulated jointly by the OAU, ECA and UNIDO with the financial assistance of UNDP.

42. Within the framework of the implementation of the same programme, and as will be explained later, the secretariat established working relations with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

43. During meetings held at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, the secretariat of the Commission and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization considered areas of co-operation in the implementation of their respective human settlements programmes in the African region. The modalities of this co-operation are being studied.

Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme

44. The resolution 2(II) relates to the development of building materials and construction industries for which a special programme (Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme) financed by extra-budgetary resources is under implementation. It will be recalled that the primary objective of this programme is to stimulate and assist African countries in increasing their capabilities for self-sustaining growth and achieving self-sufficiency in the building materials and construction industries at the continental level.

Progress of programme activities (July 1980 - March 1982)

45. The range of activities undertaken includes provision of technical advisory services to the countries, implementation of field studies on specific projects of subregional or regional importance, organization of experts groups meetings, organization of study tours and in-plant training programmes and preparation of relevant documents for the attention of the African countries. A brief description is given below of some of the major activities that have been undertaken.

Regional advisory services

46. ECA through the Programme team of experts provides technical assistance, on request, to countries on specific aspects of the development of the building materials and construction industries. These advisory services have been provided also through the ECA subregional offices (the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres).

47. Since 1980, field missions have been undertaken to the following countries at the invitation of the governments: Botswana, Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland. The areas of assistance covered in the missions are: appraisal of raw materials situation, scope for utilization of locally available materials like agricultural residues, gypsum, clam shells, limestone, etc., for production of low-cost building materials, improved technologies for bricks and stabilized soil blocks production, scope for increasing cement production and proposals for strengthening building materials production facilities and construction services. Further, there were missions to Benin, Burundi, Cameroun, Ethiopia, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Togo, Tunisia, the Upper Volta and Zaire for promoting specific projects of regional or subregional character such as building and building materials research facilities, rationalization of building codes and regulations in light of local needs, etc. These field missions have led to the submission of recommendations on, among others, priority projects for the indigenization of the building materials industries and the setting up of appropriate institutional mechanisms for the promotion of the industries.

Promotion of institutional mechanisms

48. It is not enough that the various clients of the construction sector (and, by implementation of the building materials industries) work out their requirements individually in their separate ways unmindful of the construction demand of each other and of the actual capacity and limitation of the construction sector. It is necessary to have a focal point in government with necessary authority and expertise which, on behalf of the various major clients of the construction sector, can assess the short and long term national demand for construction, examine critically the capacity and the needs of the construction sector to meet the demand, draw up an appropriate development programme, submit proposals for government approval and assist in organizing their implementation.

49. The experience in many African countries has been that such a centralized machinery (focal point) for the co-ordinated and systematic planning of the building materials and construction sector has been lacking with the result that the piece-meal measures that have been implemented have not helped significantly in resolving the acute problems facing the sector. This has added to the ever increasing cost of construction. ECA has therefore been urging African governments to set up a 'Nodal mechanism' for this purpose. Some countries have set up such a mechanism or are in the process of doing so.

50. Studies undertaken by ECA have also shown that such mechanisms at the subregional level, for example, in the form of "Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Councils" within the framework of the secretariats of the existing/planned economic groupings would constitute an appropriate framework for the promotion of joint subregional activities covering harmonization of policy aspects and setting out of modalities of project identification, planning and execution in areas where there is commonality of interest. The activities of such a council would be directed at promoting the achievement of collective self-reliance in the building materials and construction industries in the subregion through the co-ordination of maximum utilization of the resources available in the various countries.

51. In this connexion, ECA has examined the possibilities for setting up Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Councils for the CEPGL countries (Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire) and for countries in the West African subregion. Documents outlining the constitution, tasks, responsibilities and subregional linkages of the proposed councils have been prepared and submitted for the consideration of the secretariats of CEPGL and ECOWAS.

Study tour of India

52. In collaboration with the Government of India, the Economic Commission for Africa organized a study tour in India followed by a technical workshop for a team of 12 African experts on the building materials and construction industries drawn from Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Republic of Camerou, and the United Republic of Tanzania, during the period 30 April to 15 June 1981. The purpose of the study tour was to provide an opportunity for the experts, who were mainly high level technicians fromthe ministries of planning, industry, works and housing, and also from research and promotional institutions, to acquire a first-hand experience of, and to familiarize themselves with, the progress that India has made in the building materials and construction sector by making optimum use of all kinds of resources available locally. This covered, among others, formulation of policies and programmes, the production of building materials from local raw materials using a range of technologies (mostly unsophisticated), techniques for building construction making maximum use of available skills, expertise and materials, the promotion of research and development and mechanisms for translating the results of research into practice, etc.

53. The study tour which took the African experts to New Delhi, Roorkee, Dehradun, Satna, Madras, Tiruchirapalli and Bangalore, afforded them the opportunity to visit, and hold discussions with Indian experts at building materials production plants employing varying scales of technologies, building and building materials research and development institutions, housing development organizations and promotional organizations in the building materials and construction sector. The experts also had discussions with officials of the All India Brick and Tile Manufacturers Federation and the Lime Manufacturers Association of India.

54. The workshop which was organized immediately following the study tour was planned to provide a forum for the African experts to exchange ideas and experiences with their Indian counterparts in the light of their observations on the various visits and discussions undertaken during the tour, so as to be able to concretize their views about the Indian experiences and to identify in what specific ways African countries could take advantage of Indian experiences in the promotion and development of the building materials and construction industries, giving due attention to the specific nature of available resources and needs in the African countries.

In-Plant training in India

55. This programme, which was organized as a follow-up to the above study tour, was meant to provide an opportunity for a group of African experts directly involved in the production of building materials and with building construction activities to study, in greater detail, specific aspects of the building industry in India, and to gain additional experience which could be useful in promoting the adoption of technologies that are appropriate to conditions in their countries. During the period of the training programme organized from 21 October to 27 November 1981, the participants drawn from Angola, Central African Republic, the Gambia, the Ivory Coast, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania, were attached to various organizations and institutions depending on their specific interests in the field of local building materials and low-cost housing.

56. The experts were unanimous in acknowledging that the in-plant training had been a very successful exercise in technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and that it had enabled them to discover simple technologies and techniques, some of which could be applied directly in their countries.

Promotion of research and development activities

57. It will be recalled that in this field, ECA organized, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and the Government of the Republic of Burundi, a meeting of Directors of African Building Materials Research Institutes in Bujumbura, Burundi from 30 April to 3 May 1980. A detailed account of this was given during the second session of the Committee. As follow-up to the recommendations of that meeting, ECA has undertaken the necessary studies, organized a meeting of experts (Lomé, Togo, 13-17 April 1981) and prepared a project document on the transformation of the existing building research centre at Lomé, Togo (Le Centre de la Construction et du Logement, Cacavelli), into a subregional building and building materials centre to serve initially the following countries in the West African subregion: Benin, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Togo and the Upper Volta. It is expected that the project document, the draft agreement and the constitution of the Centre will be finalized soon with the concerned governments to enable the commencement of the new Centre's activities by the end of 1982. Prefeasibility studies have also been completed for the establishment of a joint building and building materials research centre for the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire).

58. Based on information collected from the member countries, ECA has prepared two draft directories, one on the building and building materials research organization and the other on building and building materials research scientists and technologists in the African region. These draft directories will soon be circulated among the countries for comments and additional information which will be incorporated in the final version to be published by the end of 1982.

Standardization of building materials

59. As part of its activities for the promotion of indigenous building materials as well as the trade of raw materials and semi-finished and finished products in African countries, ECA has initiated a questionnaire survey of standardization organizations and the scope of their programmes particularly in the building materials and construction sector. This project activity which is being undertaken in co-operation with the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) aims at

defining the basis for specific programmes for joint activities in the preparation, in the first instance, of regional standards for selected building materials which would help in the formulation of national standards.

Reformulation of Building Codes and Regulations

60. In the light of the prevailing situation in this field in the African region, ECA has undertaken a study, through the services of a consultant, on the status of building codes and regulations in some selected countries (Cameroun, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania). The study led to a set of recommendations on several aspects of a building code and related matters and suggested a format for the rationalization of building codes and regulations. The study also emphasized the need to make the code a live and dynamic instrument, through five-year reviews, to keep pace with the needs, aspirations of people and technological developments in the field of building materials and construction.

61. The next phase of this project activity will be the preparation of a model building code which will be brought to the attention of the governments for study and possible adoption with such modifications as considered necessary, to suit specific conditions.

Dissemination of information on the building materials and construction industries

62. Preliminary studies have been completed with regard to the setting up of a regional information network on building materials and construction industries with subregional and national linkages. The netowrk which will facilitate access to information and information sources both within Africa and in other regions of the world will be established in consultation and collaboration with the PADIS (Pan-African Documentation and Information System) programme of ECA. The details of the network are being worked out. The success of the network will vitally depend on a dynamic information system at national level.

Regional and international co-operation

63. One of the general objectives of ECA, as a regional Commission, is the establishment and promotion of fruitful co-operation links among the countries in the region within the context of the goal of achieving national and regional development through individual and collective self-reliance. The activities of the building materials and construction industries development programme, already described above, have therefore been implemented with this objective in view. The organization of experts group meetings, the preparations for the setting up of subregional research centres, the bringing together of national experts as members of study tour teams, etc., have all contributed to strengthening the links among the countries in the field of building materials and construction.

64. ECA has also initiated action towards establishment of links with organizations and institutions in both developed and developing countries outside Africa, whose activities in technology development and promotion, research, documentation and information, etc. could provide an input to the development of the building materials and construction industries in Africa. The results deriving from these co-operation arrangements will be disseminated to the countries in the African region. Already the study tour and in-plant training organized in India in 1981 have helped in cementing relations with institutions like the National Buildings Organization, the Cement Research Institute, the Central Building Research Institute, who are all keen on assisting African countries in their area of competence, as may be necessary.

Resolution 3(II)

65. Considering the serious effect of environmental problems on the future of Africa and especially, after examining the impact of human settlements on the environment and conversely, the extent of ecological constraints to finding solutions to urban problems, the Committee adopted resolution 3(II) on the extension of its mandate to include the regional environmental programme.

66. The secretariat of the Commission submitted this resolution to the seventh Conference of Ministers held in Freetown from 6 to 10 April 1981. That Conference formulated and adopted, in its resolution 408(XVI) on Human Settlements, measures relating to the extension of the Committee's mandate to incorporate regional environmental programmes. It endorsed the proposal on the modification in the Committee's name which has subsequently become the "Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment". It also adopted the provisions of the terms of reference of the newly established Joint Committee (see annex I).

67. That decision of the Conference of Ministers enabled the Economic Commission for Africa to complete its institutional arrangements by establishing a subsidiary body in charge of formulating and implementing the regional programme for the environment.

68. Consequently, this meeting, the third of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, is also the first meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment.

Resolution 4(II) "Status of refugees"

69. After discussing the problems regarding the settlement or resettlement and temporary or final integration of persons displaced as a result of wars of aggression or man-made phenomena or otherwise in the places where they are received and the technical problems faced by the host country in settling them, the Committee urgently called upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to mobilize resources and launch a special programme for assistance to member countries on request. Following that resolution, the secretariat made preliminary contacts with the African Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees so as to consider possible areas of co-operation.

70. However, since the seventh Conference of Ministers felt that the resolution of the Committee needed to be reconsidered by the Committee in view of the dimension and the extent of some of the implications of the problems of settlement and resettlement of displaced persons, the secretariat suspended its implementation, pending its reconsideration by the Committee.

Resolution 5(II)

71. Resolution 5(II) is entitled "Development and application of methodologies and planning techniques in pilot studies". In that resolution the Committee expressed the urgent need for conducting a study on methodologies and planning techniques which would satisfy the regional, economic, social and cultural conditions.

72. In order to study the most adequate approaches for the implementation of this resolution, the secretariat of the Commission conducted preliminary evaluation surveys through its experts working in the East African and West African subregions (see paragraphs 12-13). However (see paragraph 14) since the services of these experts were terminated and, moreover, since a regular post in the professional category has not been filled, the secretariat had to defer, temporarily the implementation of this programme. An expert is being recruited and this should make it possible to formulate an appropriate method for resuming the implementation of this resolution. The expert will be required, especially, to carry out pilot studies and propose, for consideration by national experts, methodological approaches for the formulation and implementation of programmes. He will also have to co-operate with national officials and experts for the promotion and execution of pilot projects.

Periodicity of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee

73. As proposed by the secretariat, the Intergovernmental Regional Committee at its last meeting decided to modify its meetings schedule. It was agreed that the meetings of the Committee would be held every eighteen months instead of every twelve months.

74. In view of the numerous meetings and conferences it had to organize in 1981, the secretariat was unable to convene earlier, this meeting which should normally have been held towards the end of 1981.

III. CONCLUSION

75. In conclusion, it should be emphasized that during the period under review, that is the period from 1 August 1980 to 28 July 1982, the secretariat took the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements at its second meeting and endorsed by the seventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Freetown from 6 to 10 April 1981.

76. Certain difficulties arose, which slackened the secretariat's action. Among them was the lack and some kind of inconsistent provision of resources. In fact, although the Committee was aware of the great importance of mobilizing resources and utilizing them for the efficient implementation of its decisions in conformity with its stated regional objectives, the secretariat did not succeed fully in mobilizing the necessary resources. This explained why the programme suffered a little from these short-comings.

77. Thus, as suggested in this report, the Committee should re-consider the full range of existing facilities including inter-African co-operation and the priority objectives in relation to the resources that are actually available.

78. Regarding inter-African co-operation, the Committee should, for example, recommend to the governments of member States to increase the portion of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, which should be earmarked for the human settlements programme. It was emphasized in paragraph 29 of this document that at the pledging session held during the seventh Conference of the Commission's Ministers, only three governments requested that a portion of their contribution be earmarked for the human settlements programme. It would be desirable for a greater number of governments to show their support for the programme at the next pledging session. National organizations and departments should draw the attention of their respective governments to the importance of this programme and the need for a regional effort to support its implementation.

79. Within the framework of regional co-operation, the Committee could also consider the possibility of the secondment of national experts to the secretariat (see document E/ECA/HUS/5). These experts would be responsible for carrying out specific studies which would serve as the basis for the work of the group of African experts within the technical study committee.

408(XVI) Human settlements[1/]

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 358(XIV) of 27 March 1979 on institutional arrangements for human settlements which reaffirmed the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, and resolution 378(XV) of 12 April 1980 on an action plan and institutional machinery for a regional programme on the environment for Africa which requested the Executive Secretary to work out the terms of reference for a joint sectoral body for human settlements and environment,

Further recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/116 of 16 December 1976, 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 32/197 of 20 December 1977,

Having examined the report [2/] of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements held at Addis Ababa from 28 July to 1 August 1980 and the resolutions adopted at that meeting,

Appreciative of the progress of activities relating to human settlements development which includes building materials and construction industries development,

Commending the positive guidance given by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee through its resolutions towards the development of human settlements as an integral feature of the over-all African development strategy consistent with the implications of the Lagos Plan of Action, [3/]

Appreciating the assistance being provided by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to a large number of African countries,

1. Endorses the report and resolutions adopted at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements subject to the reconsideration by the Committee of resolution 4(II) concerning the situation of refugees in Africa and without prejudice to the operational role of the United Nations Centre under resolution 32/162 as mentioned in the report [4/] of the second meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;

2. Approves that the mandate of Intergovernmental Regional Committee should include environmental matters and their implications and authorizes that the Committee be renamed the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment in conformity with resolution 378(XV) mentioned above and the provisions contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

3. Decides that the terms of reference of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment for the regional environment programme should include the following in addition to what is provided in General Assembly resolution 32/162 for human settlements:

1/ See chapter III, paragraphs 70 and 71 above.
2/ E/CN.14/782.
3/ A/S-11/14, Annex I.
4/ E/CN.14/813-E/CN.14/TPCW.II/28.

(a) Formulation of policies, priorities and strategies for regional, subregional and transnational environmental management in the African region,

(b) Promotion of the exchange of information and experience on national environmental policies, legislation, programme and problems;

(c) Review of the work programme and priorities on the environment in the Commission, appraisal of progress made in their implementation and assistance in mobilizing financial and other resources for programming in priority environmental areas in the African region;

(d) Assistance in assembling information on national environmental problems for the preparation of the state of the environment report on the African region,

(e) Promotion of programmes on environmental education for the public through the mass media and for the training of nationals as specialists to monitor, assess, manage and carry out research on environmental problems;

(f) Promotion of close inter-organizational co-operation on environmental matters between the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, and all other United Nations intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working within and outside the African region;

4. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa and related United Nations agencies and other agencies to take measures for the successful and speedy implementation of the above-mentioned resolution and requests in particular the Executive Secretary and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish systematic and effective collaboration based on regular consultations; and to this end, further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to work out, in consultation with agencies concerned, and especially the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, an appropriate basis of modalities for interagency co-operation;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to strengthen the regional and subregional operational capabilities of the Human Settlements Section through the creation or expansion of the necessary facilities in all the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres for responding to the needs of member States in matters pertaining to the development of human settlements, and particularly the development of building materials and construction industries,

6. Invites member States which have not done so to pay particular attention to the establishment at the national level and within the framework of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of appropriate mechanisms and methodologies for evolving comprehensive human settlements policies integrating the relevant sectoral programme on physical, urban and settlement planning, housing and other shelter, infrastructure and construction development policies; and to this end to promote pilot studies and projects;

7. Invites further member States to take the necessary steps for the rapid implementation of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System's complementary file on HABITAT-Africa within the framework of national documentation and information centres;

8. Requests specially the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Environment Programme and bilateral and other sources to extend to the Commission further and increased support for the expansion and diversification of its services in the field of building materials and construction industries development and its successful continuation until the objectives assigned to it have been achieved;

9. Decides to refer resolution 4(II) to the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements for its reconsideration in the light of the concerns expressed at the second meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

4/4 Strengthening of the human settlements unit of the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,

Taking note of the Lagos Plan of Action for the IMPLEMENTATION OF THE Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa adopted on 29 April 1980 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session devoted to economic matters, held at Lagos,

Taking note alsoof the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, held at Addis Ababa from 28 July to 1 August 1980,

Recognizing the urgent need to strengthen the human settlements unit of the Economic Commission for Africa for the effective implementation of the relevant sections of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with section IV, of General Assembly resolution 32/162, the Economic Commission for Africa has already established an intergovernmental committee on human settlements,

Appreciating THE ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED BY THE United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to a large number of African countries,

Welcoming the redeployment by the Executive Director of the Centre of two Professional posts and one General Service post to the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa,

Taking note of resolution 408(XVI) - Human Settlements - of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa which endorsed resolution I(II) of the second meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission, without prejudice to the operations of the Centre, to further consolidate, strengthen and expand the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of the Commission,

Urges the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to strengthen their relationship through periodic discussions on programme coordination and through exchanges of information on all regional and subregional human settlements activities in Africa.

4/5 Co-operation at the regional level related to human settlements

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977, on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in particular paragraphs 159 and 160 thereof,

Recalling also Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 2/5 and 2/6 of 4 April 1979 and 3/7 of 15 May 1980,

Further recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the special responsibilities of regional commissions with regard to promoting economic and social development through technical co-operation among developing countries and the potential of technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing that human settlements constitute a basic element of social and economic development,

Also recognizing the importance of international co-operation as a factor complementary to the policies and actions of national Governments,

Noting that the type and basis of international co-operation and support have been defined in various resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 35/56,

Recalling that the need for co-operation at the regional level, as a component of international action, has been emphasized in, inter alia, General Assembly resolution 32/162, section IV, Commission on Human Settlements resolution 2/5, on support for Latin American and Caribbean regional action on United Nations institutional questions relating to human settlements, and Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/7, on co-operation and organization at the regional level,

Noting that the activities of the United Nations system in the area of human settlements need to be strengthened at the regional level through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 32/197 of 20 December 1977 as they relate to the redeployment of resources from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the regional commissions,

Recognizing the existing limitations on increases in the United Nations budget,

1. Urges the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the regional commissions to continue to strengthen their ties and co-operation in the field of human settlements, inter alia, through the establishment of joint units in accordance with paragraph 6 of Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/7;

2. Further urges the regional commissions to consider ways and means of improving regional and subregional collaboration in the field of human settlements through the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. Requests the Centre to take appropriate action to improve co-ordination with other agencies of the United Nations system and to ensure more effective action at the regional level;

4. Urges that regional commissions enhance regional and subregional co-operation in the field of human settlements and to that end make available sufficient resources for their human settlements units;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session that the temporary assistance approved for deployment to the regions for 1981 be coverted into established posts as of 1982;

6. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre of the Centre to prepare and submit to the Commission at its fifth session a detailed report on the implementation of this resolution, with special emphasis on:

(a) The programmes of the Centre at the regional level;

(b) The Executive Director's proposal for implementing the Centre's work programme for the period 1982-1983, with special reference to the regions;

(c) The means by which institutional co-ordination between the Centre and each of the regional commissions is to be further promoted, in accordance with Commission on Human Settlements resolution 3/7 as it relates to the joint units.

4/6 Mobilization and utilization of resources for human settlements development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, which, inter alia, provided for the mobilization and utilization of resources in the various regions in the field of human settlements,

Further bearing in mind other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 31/109 of 16 December 1976, 31/113 of 16 December 1976, and 34/114 and 34/116 of 14 December 1979,

Taking note of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which, inter alia, stresses the significance of mobilizing financial and other resources for development, including development in the field of human settlements, d/

Recognizing the urgent need to mobilize financial, manpower and other resources necessary for the promotion of technical co-operation, research, training,

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d/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, paras. 96-114 and 159-160.

the dissemination of information and other activities in Africa, and for the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, as adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity,

Convinced that it is necessary to utilize financial and other resources promptly once they have been allocated to human settlements development,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels with a view to improving human settlements,

1. Adopts the recommendations of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the mobilization of finance and other resources for human settlements development, as contained in his reports to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourth session,

2. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre to ensure the prompt utilization of the resources allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa and the other regional commissions;

3. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre to intensify his efforts to mobilize financial and other resources for human settlements development, especially in the developing countries;

4. Calls upon all States and international organizations, including international financial institutions, to increase their voluntary and other contributions in this regard to developing countries;

5. Calls for the accelerated implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977;

6. Requests the Executive Director of the Centre, in close co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to harmonize their respective work programmes and priorities in the field of human settlements with regard to manpower, training, public participation at the grass-roots level, financing, energy requirements and conservation in human settlemnets, services and assistance in research relating to human settlements.

4/10 Utilization of consultants and experts

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983, as revised by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, which stressed as a strategy the need for the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to concentrate on, inter alia, the organization and technology of the construction and building materials industries, the aim being to ensure, among other things, the more efficient application of technology, the reduction of costs and the expansion of output, e/

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e/ A/33/6/Rev.1, A/35/6.

Realizing that studies and experience in countries could help international agencies in developing a methodology and technical expertise in certain fields, as emphasized in the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Ways and Means of Establishing or Strengthening Financial Institutions for Human Settlements Financing and Investment, f/

Bearing in mind the recommendation contained in the Executive Director's report on the review of the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements to the effect that the target population of a project should be involved at all stages of the project from conception through planning and design to implementation and operation, in order to improve a project's chances of success and therefore to make best use of available resources, g/

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to intensify his efforts to promote the use of consultants and experts from the developing countries in all aspects of work in the field of human settlements and also to give preference to qualified indigenous personnel in the recruitment of project personnel;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to make a special effort to ensure that due consideration is given to qualified personnel from the developing countries in the compilation and updating of the Centre's roster of consultants and experts.

4/12 Assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements,

Being aware of the deplorable conditions to which the black population is being subjected by the racist apartheid régime in South Africa and in the United Nations territory of Namibia, which the régime in question continues to occupy by force in flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions,

Cognizant of the efforts and contribution being made by members of the Organization of African Unity, particularly the front-line States of southern Africa, and other members of the international community towards the eradication of the evil of apartheid in South Africa and the bringing about of a speedy end to the apartheid régime's continued illegal occupation of Namibia,

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f/ HS/C/4/8, annex, para. 63(a).
g/ HS/C/4/4, para. 53.

Concerned about the increased repression by the Pretoria apartheid régime of the people and their national liberation movements in South Africa and the occupied United Nations territory of Namibia, as well as the apartheid régime's intensified aggression against the front-line States because of their continued support for and commitment to the eradication of colonialism and apartheid,

Viewing with serious concern the destruction of human life and settlements in the front-line States,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the assistance provided to national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia in the field of human settlements;

2. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To intensify human settlements training assistance for the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity in order to make victims of apartheid self-reliant and to enable them to obtain the skills necessary for the improvement of their living conditions;

(b) To provide additional assistance to those countries the human settlements of which have been disrupted by the Pretoria racist régime;

(c) To report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifth session on the implementation of this resolution;

3. Also commends members of the Organization of African Unity, particularly the front-line States, and all other members of the international community for their unwavering support for the struggle against apartheid and colonialism;

4. Strongly condemns the Pretoria racist régime for its inhuman repression in South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia, as well as its acts of aggression against the front-line States.